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ABSTRACT

Presented in this book are studies of social projects for economically disadvantaged inner-city youth engaged in neighborhood revitalizations in low-income communities around the country. Children and teens are highlighted as they participate in nonschool initiatives to achieve economic and political self-determination coupled with personal fulfillment and healthy growth. The real-life projects described illustrate the commitment of adult workers in intergenerational learning communities in which young people learn to make a difference. Chapter 1, "Community Economics," profiles a number of grassroots efforts at economic development and job creation involving teens and young adults. Chapter 2, "Neighborhood Improvement," describes efforts by young people to reclaim their communities. "Health and Wellness," chapter 3, discusses how community violence obstructs youth development and describes some projects addressing conflict resolution, teen parenting, and self esteem. Chapter 4, "Street Arts," examines community art programs as aspects of crime and substance abuse prevention efforts. In chapter 5, "Youth Leadership," how teens enter grassroots social programs in leadership development is explored. Chapter 6, "Beacons of Hope," describes community development through intergenerational, faith-based organizations. An appendix contains a directory of 54 resources. (Contains 227 references.) (SLD)

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